

News Release

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, September 29, 2010 Contact: Kalynn Filion Health Program Coordinator 801-538-7009 (o) 801-815-4423 (c)

Sen. Hatch Connects Women with Free Mammograms

Mobile screening van will be at Utah Women's Conference

(Salt Lake City, UT) – For 26 years, women have attended the Utah Women's Conference to be educated, inspired and entertained, and this year...there could be lives saved thanks to a visit by the Garfield Memorial Hospital mobile mammography van.

"I really appreciate all who are working to provide these important mammogram services at the conference," said Senator Orrin Hatch, "This is a terrific opportunity for Utah women to do something that could really make a difference in their lives."

Sen. Hatch has teamed up with Garfield Memorial Hospital and the Utah Department of Health's Cancer Control Program (UCCP) to bring the hospital's mammography van to his annual women's conference in Salt Lake City. Women who qualify can get a clinical breast exam and free screening mammogram at the event on October 4. Women who have insurance coverage or choose to pay for the screening are also welcome. The van will remain onsite through October 5.

"We're excited to work with the Cancer Control Program and Senator Hatch in this effort," said Alberto Vasquez, Administrator, Garfield Memorial Hospital. "We believe that patient awareness, along with our new state-of-the-art digital mammography unit, will be a winning combination to fight breast cancer."

Mammograms are the best weapon in the war on breast cancer because they can find the disease early. Women diagnosed with breast cancer in Stage I have a nearly 100% survival rate.

"Utah has one of the lowest breast cancer screening rates in the country, but partnering with the senator's conference and the mammography van for this event is a step in the right direction," said Kathryn Rowley, UCCP program manager. "We do need to work together to get the message to women that routine mammograms can save their lives."

The conference will be held at Abravanel Hall and the van will be parked at the Salt Palace next door. Call 435-616-8844 to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome until time slots fill up.

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care and promoting healthy lifestyles.